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3. FRENCH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY TO BE CALLED INTO SPECIAL SESSION ON ALGERIA

The French National Assembly will be called into special session to enact a basic statute for Algeria before the UN General Assembly meets this fall, according to the chief of Premier Bourges-Maunoury's personal staff. Minister for Algeria Robert Lacoste's "definitive" text of the proposed statute is now being examined by the government.

According to Lacoste's personal representative in the Foreign Ministry, the plan now being considered divides Algeria into a number of areas with administrative autonomy. Another official on Lacoste's staff in Algeria states that tentative approval of Socialist, Popular Republican and Independent leaders has already been obtained to set up four or five territories on an ethnic basis.

Comment

It is becoming increasingly apparent that the government's strategy will couple a plan of ethnic gerrymandering to satisfy the French assembly, with a proposal of regional autonomy to head off attacks in the UN. Paris is sending Under Secretary of State for European Affairs Maurice Faure on a tour of Asian capitals in September to explain France's Algerian policy in the hope of winning wider support in the UN. A global "counterpropaganda" organization to deal with North African questions has also been established by the French government.

The separation of the Saharan area of Algeria from the northern coastal region has already begun, and the division of this area on 7 August into two departments under the minister for the Sahara is another step in this direction.

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5. POLES ALTER OPINION OF SOVIET
PRESIDIUM SHAKE-UP

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[REDACTED] Polish optimism over the recent changes in the Soviet leadership is now being moderated by more sober evaluation, according to Wladyslaw Bienkowski, Polish minister of education and confidant of party leader Gomulka. Bienkowski now believes that no common policy toward Eastern Europe could have existed among those dismissed since Molotov and Malenkov represented an "impossible amalgam." The changes therefore probably will not affect Soviet policy toward Eastern Europe, he feels, and will not necessarily weaken dogmatism and sectarianism in the USSR.

Comment

The continued stability of the "Stalinist" leadership in both Czechoslovakia and East Germany, as well as the Bulgarian dismissals of possible anti-Stalinists, may have contributed to this altered Polish evaluation of Soviet policy toward Eastern Europe. Both the Poles and the Yugoslavs now have expressed their belief that Stalinist elements have not been fully eliminated from the leadership of the Soviet Union and, consequently, that dramatic Soviet liberalization of policy toward the Satellites is not to be anticipated.

Poland has apparently been encouraged, however, by the effect of the Kremlin shake-up on Soviet-Yugoslav relations. The number of favorable Polish press references to Yugoslav developments has increased markedly in the past month. The official Polish reaction to the Tito-Khrushchev visit placed primary emphasis on the refusal of either country to impose its own opinion in determining the form of socialist development. [REDACTED]

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8. RENEWED TENSION IN THAILAND

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The American embassy in Bangkok believes that political tensions in Thailand are nearing a climax. The assembly began a general debate on the Phibun government's policies on 8 August.

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The role of Marshal Sarit, the reportedly disaffected army chief and defense minister, would be the key factor in any assembly effort to unseat the government.

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Sarit, however, tends toward indecision and failed to exploit an opportunity to seize power during the postelection riots in March.

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9. INDONESIAN COMMUNISTS URGE COOPERATION OF OTHER PARTIES

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Indonesian Communist Party Secretary General Aidit has called for cooperation from other parties, joint administration, and joint responsibilities in furthering President Sukarno's "nation-saving concept." In a campaign speech in West Java on 3 August, Aidit pointedly told the National Party and the Nahdlatul Ulama that in joining the Masjumi in an anti-Communist front they would be turning their backs on Sukarno, whereas cooperation would have his blessing.

Comment

The two major Moslem parties, the Masjumi and the Nahdlatul Ulama, have adopted an outright anti-Communist line in the West Java campaign leading up to local elections scheduled for 10 August. The National Party, however, possibly could be persuaded to cooperate on both national and local levels in the hope of retrieving its former strength.

The Communist Party already has strong influence in the central government, and on the basis of its gains in the Central and East Java local elections is pressing for open participation in the cabinet.

ANNEX

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Watch Report 366, 8 August 1957
of the
Intelligence Advisory Committee

Conclusions on Indications of Hostilities

On the basis of findings by its Watch Committee, the Intelligence Advisory Committee concludes that:

- A. No Sino-Soviet bloc country intends to initiate hostilities against the continental US or its possessions in the immediate future.
- B. No Sino-Soviet bloc country intends to initiate hostilities against US forces abroad, US allies or areas peripheral to the orbit in the immediate future.
- C. Early deliberate initiation of hostilities by Israel or the Arab states is not probable. Although tensions continue between the Arab states and Israel and among certain Arab states themselves, these are not likely to lead to serious conflict in the immediate future.

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